

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03500 030609Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /075 W
-----005042 030614Z /14

O 030535Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7760
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3500

E.O. 11652: XGDS(4)

TAGS: AF, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER TARAKI

1. INDIAN AMBASSADOR S.K. SINGH ON MAY 2 GAVE ME A
BRIEF RUNDOWN ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH NEW AFGHAN PRIME
MINISTER TARAKI WHEN HE CALLED ON HIM ON MAY 1 TO EXTEND
INDIAN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME. AMONG THE
IMPORTANT POINTS MENTIONED BY SINGH WERE:

A. TARAKI INDICATED AFGHANISTAN INTENDS TO PURSUE A
NONALIGNED OR NEUTRAL POLICY. SINGH COMMENTED THAT
TARAKI AND HE HAD A DISCUSSION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE TWO, WHICH WAS SOMEWHAT OBSURE TO TARAKI AS IT IS TO ME.

B. SINGH URGED TARAKI TO CONTINUE THE POLICY ESTABLISHED
BY THE PREVIOUS AFGHAN REGIME AND IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH
OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION. TARAKI SAID THAT THAT
WAS HIS INTENTION.

C. TARAKI MENTIONED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS FINDING
EVIDENCE OF MASSIVE CORRUPTION BY THE PREVIOUS REGIME.

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SINGH TOLD HIM HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THAT SUBJECT.
TARAKI TOLD SINGH HE WOULD BELIEVE WHAT TARAKI SAID ONCE
THE FACTS WERE PUBLISHED. COMMENT: THIS IS SOMEWHAT
OMINOUS FOR SOME OF THE SURVIVING OFFICIALS OF THE
PREVIOUS REGIME. END COMMENT

D. SINGH URGED TARAKI TO ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT THE

NEW GOVERNMENT WILL OBSERVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS
OF ITS PREDECESSOR.

2. SINGH TOLD ME TARAKI'S ENGLISH IS CORRECT BUT NOT
FLUENT AND THAT HE SPEAKS URDU AS WELL AS PASHTU.

3. AMBASSADOR GOHEEN IS CORRECT IN HIS SURMISE (NEW DELHI
6878) THAT I HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SINGH DURING
THE PAST WEEK. SINGH IS AN ABLE OBSERVER AND, BEING AN
INDIAN WITH SHINING NONALIGNED CREDENTIALS, CONTINUES
TO MOVE AROUND KABUL MORE FREELY THAN MOST OTHER DIPLOMATS.
I THINK IT WILL PROVE TO BE IN OUR INTEREST IN THE WEEKS
AHEAD TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE INDIANS, BOTH HERE
AND IN NEW DELHI, ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION AND TO ENCOURAGE
THE INDIANS TO CONTINUE THEIR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TRAINING
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HERE.
ELIOT

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